

The Pine River Watershed Alliance
Board Meeting Minutes June 18, 2019
Ideal Community Center
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Board Member Attendees: Ron Meyer, Steve Roe, Lloyd Thyen, John Forney, Barb Courmeya, Jim Chamberlin, Clay Shulte, Gordy Reller & Sheila Boldt.

(1) There was a motion Lloyd Thyen seconded by Barbara Courmeya , to approve the 6/18/2019 agenda. Motion carried.

(2) There was a motion by Barbara Courmeya seconded by Lloyd Thyen, to approve the 5/21/2019 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

(3) Committee Reports

- Finance

A. Steve reviewed the financial report and there was more discussion about increasing the membership dues.

There was a motion by Jodi Eberhardt seconded by Jodi Eberhardt , to approve the 6/18/2019 financial report as provided.

- Membership

A. People who started years ago with lower donations have increased their donation amounts. Therefore, we have approximately the same income from membership but less actual members joining. We need to increase individual memberships from lake associations.

- Land and Waters

A. Need to expand geographic interest in using funds for the entire watershed (not just each organization's individual lake etc.)

- Website/Facebook

A. Send agricultural articles to Sheila.boldt@crowwingswcd.org to share on Facebook or The PRWA website.

- Conservation/Enbridge: Now increasing memberships (Northern Waters Land Trust)!

A. John & Cathy would like to have a joint board meeting (The PRWA & The Northern Waters Land Trust (was LLAWF)).

- Enbridge has failed to study the effects on Lake Superior on a pipeline leak and therefore have to re-do the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The MPCA & The DNR have (apparently) pulled permits until the EIS is complete and then Enbridge has to re-do permit applications.

- Land and Ag

A) The Forage Council was going to bring in a Stockman ship speaker from Canada about handling livestock but that fell through this year.

B) The Forage Council is going to host a fencing workshop in conjunction with The Staples, CLC campus August 23, 2019.

C) Byron Project: Is there an environmentally (water) safe way to farm when there has been a conversion from forest to crops? Via center pivots and the amount of fertilizer to grow the potatoes.

D) Grazing Management Project: 1W1P there are two applicants (cattle ranchers) to get a specific percentage of the ranchers and in four watersheds to take the survey. Examples of questions in the survey:

Are you continuous grazing? What are barriers? Current Practices? What do you need?

(4) Loon Center Update

A. The legislature has approved \$4 million LCCMR grant. The first funds will go towards docks, shoreline etc. A letter of content has been received via the Corp. of Engineers but the lease has not been officially completed. There is a traffic study for the location because people have expressed concern. Therefore, there will be a survey and develop ideas for parking in Crosslake etc. There has been a grant accepted by The Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP), a graduate student and supervising professor, to look at some of the current issues dealing with The Loon Center. The first semester will be the message or curriculum and the second semester will be regarding signage, kiosks, exhibits and a floating classroom.

(5) Grazing Management Project (previously discussed)

(6) Upper Whitefish Project

(7) Harvest Dinner is August 24, 2019

- Looking for a 1920's tractor, 50th Anniversary of The Cass Co. Farm Bureau.

(8) Driftwood Lodge Development

(9) 1W1P (see upcoming event information after minutes)

(10) Conflict of Interest Policy

A. Take it upon yourself if you think there is a conflict of interest with voting for board items. It will be officially noted in the meeting minutes.

(11) The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

A. Looking for a large amount of funds to with increase Civic Engagement (CE) within the entire Mississippi Headwaters region (many counties).

(12) There was a motion by Steve Roe seconded by Gordy Reller , to approve the purchase of one watershed model in partnership (split the cost in half) with The Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District (approximately \$719.65).

Model Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQLX7nz2Q7A>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWdCub4IJU>

<https://youtu.be/P2JRik73mAE>

(13) Board Comments

Steve – Enjoyed Jim’s presentation, make understandable to the laymen.

Lloyd – Look at The 1W1P with Lake Association Group

Jim – Marketing grazing and if ranchers are putting extra work into it, they should be able to see that value. Training on Wealth Works (Region 5) which is a way to look at assessing your capital beyond money (individual, intellectual, social (8 total)). Consumer-side is needed still to put-forward more efforts (processing facility for beef).

Gordy – Enjoyed Jim’s presentation, soil health – the more you hear, the more you realize you don’t know!

*July 12, 2019 Meeting at John T. Once details are worked out, there might be board members to sit and listen.

Clay – Intrigued by The TNC efforts, what they’re plan is and if they are being successful.

Barb – Encouraging people to reach out to the legislatures to inform them on issues happening here.

Ron – Curious about how the Upper Whitefish brainstorming session will go. New longterm ideas are welcome!



Committee/Thank You Advisory Committee

Created by: Melissa Barrick

Time

10:30am - 1:30pm (Central Time -
Chicago)

Date

Wed Jun 26, 2019

Where

Ideal Township Town Hall, 3643, 35458
Butternut Point Rd, Pequot Lakes, MN
56472, USA

Description

Draft Outline for the meeting:10:30-11:30-Review
comments from state agency's and public
11:30-12:30-Lunch and Thank you to Advisory
Committee Members
12:30-Public Hearing
12:45- Modifications to plan and other business

Guests

- ✓ bill.brekken@crowwing.us
- ✓ bob@blackpinebeach.com
- ✓ chris.pence@state.mn.us
- ✓ george.minerich@state.mn.us
- ✓ heidi.lindgren@state.mn.us
- ✓ Jacob.Frie@crowwing.us
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